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BY: Karin J Meas
Date: 12/30/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:
MEULMAN, Dirk, et al.

Serial Number: 09/380,695 Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: March 29, 2002 Examiner: Bahar, M.

For: USE OF A 7 α -METHYL-17 α -ETHYNYL-ESTRANE DERIVATIVE FOR
THE TREATMENT OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Arlington, VA 22313

December 30, 2003

Dear Sir:

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR

§132(b)

I. Submission/Introduction

Applicants respectfully request continued examination of the above referenced application pursuant to 37 CFR §132(b). Prosecution on the above referenced application is closed, as the application is under a final rejection, dated September 30, 2003. Applicants are submitting the fee required pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(e) and making the following submission. Please charge deposit account 02-2334 for any required fee and to credit any credits.

Applicants respectfully respond as follows: